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UNCLAS ASUNCION 000701

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/BSC, WHA/EPSC, EB/TPP/MTA
STATE PASS TO USTR FOR SCRININ, LYANG
USAID FOR AA/LAC ADOLFO FRANCO
TREASURY FOR OSIA MAUREEN WAFER
COMMERCE ITA SARAH COOK
NSC FOR MIKE DEMPSEY
SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD
US SOUTHERN COMMAND MIAMI, FLORIDA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [PA](#) [WTO](#)

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY WILL NOT SUBMIT REVISED WTO SERVICES OFFER

REF: 05 STATE 81619

[1](#)1. Econcouns delivered reftel demarche on WTO services negotiations to Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ruben Ramirez on May 24. Ramirez explained that Paraguay would not be submitting a revised services offer until it sees more progress in agriculture negotiations, Paraguay's priority. Ramirez will be attending the July meetings in Geneva and will reassess the status of negotiations then.

[1](#)2. Ramirez stated that the GOP understands the importance of services liberalization and is taking action, including the passage by the Senate of legislation reopening the possibility of privatization of the state-owned telecom company, and the signing of Open Skies agreements with the USG and with Chile earlier this month. However, he stated that it is difficult to convince others in the GOP and industry to devote resources to devising a revised services offer without clearer indications that Paraguay will see concrete benefits in agriculture negotiations.

KEANE